

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7141 IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 0014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJECT: ICAO: ELECTION OF NEW SECRETARY GENERAL

REF: A. 75 STATE 276719, B. 75 MONTREAL 1896

1. REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE (YVES LAMBERT) CALLED ON THE ALTERNATE U.S. REP THIS MORNING AND INFORMED HIM THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE IS CONSIDERING NOMINATING MR. LAMBERT FOR THE POSITION OF SYG.

2. MR. LAMBERT EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT USREP LAST WEEK AND UPON LEARNING THAT SHE WAS ON LEAVE DELAYED DISCUSSION UNTIL THIS MORNING BUT TIME MADE IT ESSENTIAL FOR HIM TO HAVE HIS DISCUSSION WITH THIS MISSION NOW FOR REASONS EXPLAINED LATER.

3. LAMBERT STATED THAT HE REPORTED TO HIS GOVERNMENT THE RESULT OF HIS ANALYSIS AS TO THE ACCEPTABILITY OF MR. GILLAUME FOR THE POSITION (WHICH WAS NEGATIVE) AND THAT SOME OF THE REASONS FOR THE NEGATIVE REACTIONS STEM FROM THE FACT THAT MR. GILLAUME IS A LAWYER, DR. KOTAITE IS A LAWYER, GILLAUME IS NOT TECHNICAL AND IS FRANCOPHONE. HIS GOVERNMENT THEN DECIDED TO TEST THE REACTION OF THE COUNCIL TO LAMBERT'S CANDIDACY. IN PURSUIT OF THIS OBJECTIVE THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR FROM OTTAWA WAS DIRECTED TO CALL UPON THE PRESIDENT OF THE

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COUNCIL AND DR. KOTAITE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER. LAMBERT WAS

NOT PRESENT AT THE DISCUSSION BUT WAS INFORMED BY HIS AMBASSADOR THAT IN THEIR VIEW LAMBERT'S ASSESSMENT OF GILLAUME'S CHANCES WAS CORRECT. FURTHER, THAT LAMBERT POSSESSED THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A CANDIDATE. IN LIGHT OF THIS REACTION IT WAS DECIDED TO HAVE DR. CUCCI, REPOF ITALY, CONTACT COUNCIL REPS AND DISCUSS THE FEASIBILITY OF FRANCE'S NOMINATING LAMBERT AS SYG. (LAMBERT EXPLAINED THAT DR. CUCCI HAD BEEN SELECTED BECAUSE HE IS "DEAN" OF THE COUNCIL AND ITALY HAD SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF AN ECAC COMMITTEE.P HE ADVISED THAT IN KEEPING WITH THE EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND THE US MISSION HE WANTED TO HAVE THIS DISCUSSION WITH THE MISSION PRIOR TO DR. CUCCI CONTACTING THE USREP AND FEARED THAT IF HE DELAYED ANY LONGER THE TIMING MIGHT BE AWKWARD. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HIS COURTESY AND STATED THAT HIS THOUGHTFULNESS WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONS WHICH EXIST AND THAT OF COURSE IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO MAKE ANY COMMENT AS TO THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS MESSAGE BUT DID EXPRESS APPRECIATION ON BEHALF OF THE MISSION FOR HIS THOUGHTFULNESS. I FURTHER INFORMED HIM THAT I WAS CERTAIN THAT THE USREP WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UPON HER RETURN.

4. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT IN THE DISCUSSION WITH THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY NO REFERENCE WAS MADE TO THE FACT THAT THE US HAD INFORMALLY APPROACHED DR. KOTAITE AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE US NOMINATING A CANDIDATE FOR SYG. IN THIS CONNECTION DR. KRUNIC, REP OF YUGOSLAVIA, INFORMED THE USREP IN DECEMBER THAT HE HAD CHECKED WITH DR. KOTAITE AS TO THE CANDIDACIES AT THAT TIME AND WAS INFORMED THAT THE ONLY ANNOUNCED CANDIDATE WAS MR. BARKAH OF INDONESIA. AGAIN, DR. KOTAITE FAILED TO MENTION THAT THE US HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN NOMINATING A CANDIDATE.

5. BIO DATA ON LAMBERT DISPATCHED IN SEPTTEL. HARPER

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